

DEC 08 2006

Application No. 09/945,483

Attorney Docket No. 66251

REMARKS

This is in response to the presently pending Office Action that was mailed on November 29, 2006. Claims 1-9 are pending and claim 10 was previously cancelled. Claims 1-9 were objected to under various informalities and rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. The objections and rejections of the claims are traversed for the reasons stated below.

Written Statement Regarding Substance of 12/08/2006 Interview per 37 CFR 1.113(b)

The Applicants extend appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the pending application with Examiner Ly during the telephone interview that occurred on December 8, 2006. Those participating in the interview were in-house counsel for the Applicants, Georgann S. Grunebach, Timothy Baumann, outside counsel to the Applicant, and the Examiner. In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.133(b) and the manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) §713.04, the Applicants provide the following written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action.

No exhibits were shown or discussed. The claims were discussed and the Examiner's suggestions for overcoming the §112 rejections were discussed. The Applicants have amended the claims according to the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the rejections and objections. The Examiner indicated that these amendments would result in the allowance of the claims.

The Office Action made several objections to the claims and the Applicants have amended the claims to overcome these objections.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance which is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0383. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0383.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Date: December 8, 2006

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